a Minister, it should, as far as practicable, be replied to by the Minister concerned.

There are also guidelines to the effect that a fortnightly watch should be kept on disposal of communications received from Members of Parliament.

Promotion of Section Officers

4358. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Section Officers of general category with 11 years of service were promoted as Under Secretary whereas Section Officers belonging to SC/ST categories with 12 years of service are still waiting for their promotion as Under Secretary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any irregularity has been committed while making ad-hoc promotions in the grade of Under Secretary;

(d) whether any adverse effect has been meted out to SC/ST Section Officers with regard to their promotion as a result of irregularities;

(e) whether Government have taken any corrective measures to ensure timely promotions of SC/ST officers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Due to litigation over inter se seniority of direct recruit and promote Section Officers of the Central Secretariat Service, regular panels for appointment to Under Secretary's Grade could not be issued after 1986. During this period, some ad-hoc promotions were made on the basis of cadre-wise seniority as a result of which in some cadres promotee Section Officers with 11 years approved service got promoted while officers with longer approved service, belonging to both general and SC/ST categories, remained unpromoted in other cadres. Subsequently, following the finalisation of a Common Seniority List of Section Officers in January, 1993 ad-hoc promotions were made according to that list and the guidelines for consideration of cases of SC/ST officers in ad-hoc promotions, but some general category officers with 14 years approved service and some SC officers with 12 years approved service are yet to be promoted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The guidelines relating to consideration of SC/ST officers in ad hoc promotions have been followed.

Validity of Notices of Officials of Public Undertakings

4359. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the order which would be valid and prevail in case the Chief of public undertaking issued a notice for misconduct to its employees and then after this, one junior officer to the Chief issued another notice under a different rule for the same misconduct to them;

(b) whether any action can be taken on the notice of the junior officer when the disciplinary proceedings under the Chief's notice are still pending, with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it amounts to disrespect shown to the Chief and an act of indiscipline on the part of the junior officer, with reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would declare the notice to junior officer as invalid and void or not, together with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) Under the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors of public sector undertakings enjoy autonomy in respect of service matters, including disciplinary action against employees below the Board level. The procedure to be followed in disciplinary cases is governed by the relevant rules like Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules framed by the respective PSUs. They are not required to consult the Government in such matters.

Empanelment of 1962 Batch of IAS Officers

4360. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a case for review of empanelment of 1962 batch of IAS officers for the post of Secretary;